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Public Comments on Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services:=====

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Comment: After reading the petitioners proposed changes I find that I agree with the proposed changes in the inmate calling services. Contact with family members will offer an inmate the opportunity to feel connected, and in a small way part of the family unit. It is especially important for inmates with children to have contact with their kids. The children need the contact with their parent as much as the inmate needs to connect with the child. Children who are not being raised by their parents need to know that mom or dad is still available to talk to, or to give advice on the critical issues facing children everyday. Currently inmates and their families face a two tier calling charge which is outside of some individual financial limits. I think there should be a rate cap to ensure that the inmates have the opportunity to connect with family, and remain connected with their children. I think the set up charge should be eliminated and the inmate or the family pay the per minute charge. The correctional facility can obtain services from different providers that will still offer the security necessary to protect witnesses, and important individuals, but offer the inmate a chance to connect with their families. This connection will

help the inmate stay grounded, and might lessen the violence that they feel from being so isolated from their loved ones. The rates that are currently being charged vary so significantly that it is hard to determine what the actual charge will be. I think there needs to be one set charge that will enable the inmate, and the families of the inmates to know exactly what charges will appear on their phone bill each month. Offering different carriers will help reduce the monopoly with one carrier, and might offer more competitive rates to ensure that regular communication is made possible for the inmates and their families.

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